

Center For Conservation and Technical Studies

Analytical Report

Requested by: Michael Hodder

Sample No.: A88.39

Date Submitted: 3 Aug 1988

Origin and Description of the Sample: Three copper coins

Subject: Coins see below for identification

Artist: Anon

Owner: Bowers and Marena

Loan or Accession No.: TL-31456.1-3

Reason For Analysis: To determine the surface structure by Laue back reflection diffractometry.

Sampling Procedure: No samples taken.

Location: -----

Photographs: 35 mm slides of selected sites

Analytical Techniques Employed:

Microscopy and Laue back reflection diffractometry.

Results:

RR-40 ex Kojin/Patterson: 1988

George III, (Patterson sale #1028)

Obverse: Laue #1 from worn surface on the head of George III shows a fine grained structure having two diffraction rings indicative of Cu metal.

Reverse: (Reference to the figure in the upright position with shield.)

Laue #2 was taken in the 1st quadrant at about 2 o'clock towards the edge. This site gives a Laue consisting of many small slightly elongated diffraction spots indicating cold working or striking.

Laue #3 1st or 2nd Quadrant at about 3 o'clock near the truncated letter "L". This Laue shows the same fine grained structure as George's head on the obverse side and is in marked contrast to the site adjacent to it.

Ans 1941.147.3 (Confederation 1785)

Laue #1 Obverse: Worn surface on the shield. The Laue indicates a fine-grained

Results (Cont'd):

structure with two diffraction rings indicating Cu metal. Careful examination suggests some concentration of the ring into elongated "spots" indicating a remnant distortion of the grains.

Laue #2 Obverse: Area directly below the figure at 6 o'clock but in from the edge. This photo shows clear evidence of cold working or striking with the rings made up of small doubled elongated spots. There is evidence seen under the microscope at this site of a possible gold wash which however may be just corrosion sheen. This site should be checked with X-ray fluorescence for metal other than Cu.

Laue # 3 Obverse: Towards the edge at 9 o'clock , the Laue reveals a structure similar to Laue site #2 indicating cold working or striking.

Ans 1942.24.1 Obverse: Laue #1, The eagles head shows a fine grained structure with two diffraction rings indicating Cu metal. Rings are essentially complete. Laue #2 (Obverse) The background near the eagles head shows a fine-grained structure with a suggestion of elongated spots on the inner ring.

Discussion: There are several conditions that can produce a fine-grained structure such as are revealed on these three coins. They include electrotyping, a rapidly chilled cast, sanding or filing the surface and rolling the metal. There are two and possibly three Laues that show some sort of distortion structure on the rings which indicate fine-grained structure. The only process that I know of that could produce this distorted structure and be consistent with the metallurgical history

Conclusions:

Discussion continued: of the coin is rolling. Rolling prior to striking can at least account for the features seen. However there is the problem of the George III coin that displays a fine grained structure on the worn head of Geo. but does not show any discontinuities along the ring structure.

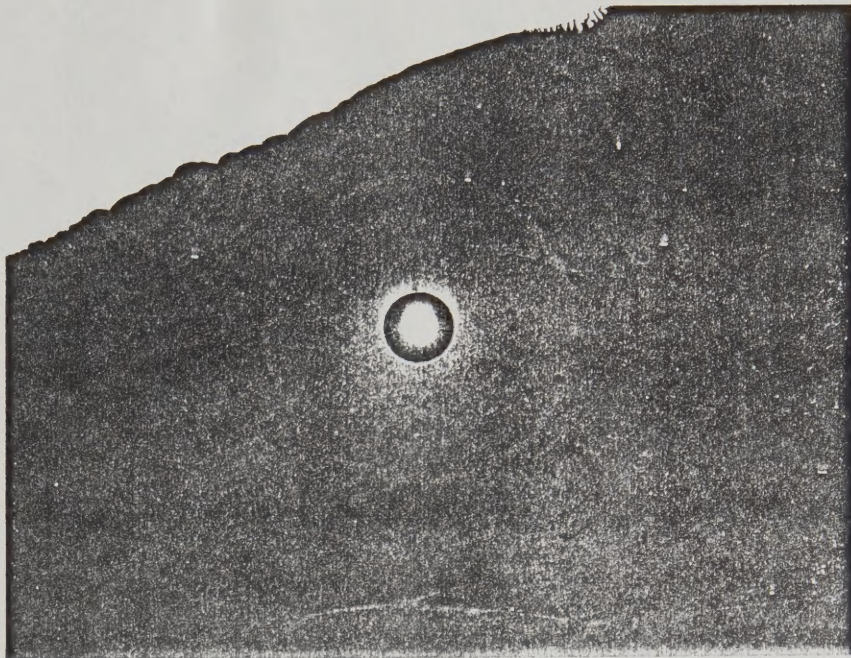
Visual observation seems to confirm the supposition that this is an overstruck coin. However it is difficult to understand how a second striking can produce a fine-grained structure

Remarks:

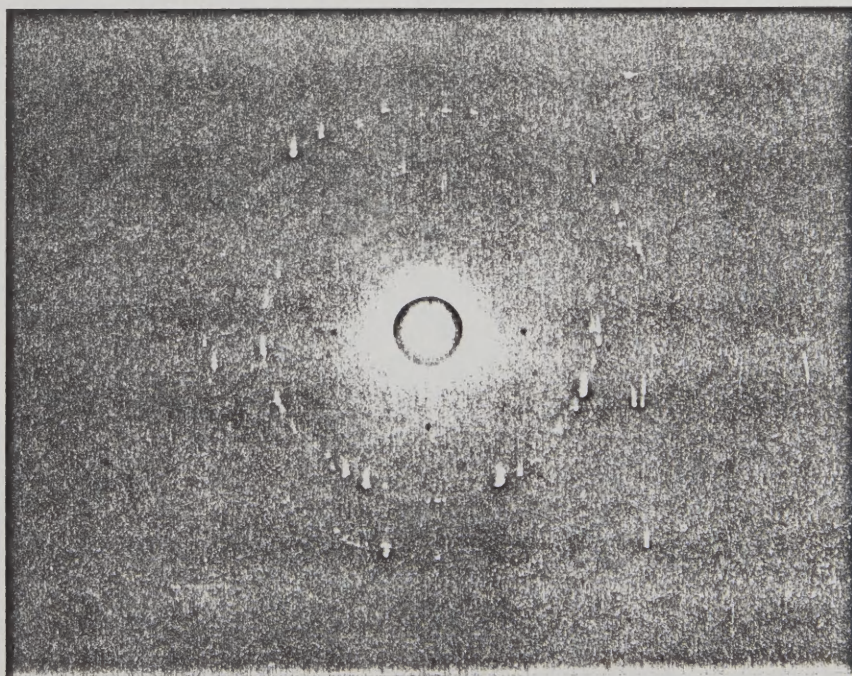
Cullity D B, in, Elements of X-Ray Diffraction, Addison Wesley (1965), see enclosed xeroxes shows the effect of rolling metal on the Laue pattern. The patterns seen on the coin described in this report could be explained by rolling. However it would be well worth while to undertake some experiments to duplicate the assumed process by which these coins were produced and to follow each step with Laues.

Analyst: E. Farrell / Amy Snodgrass

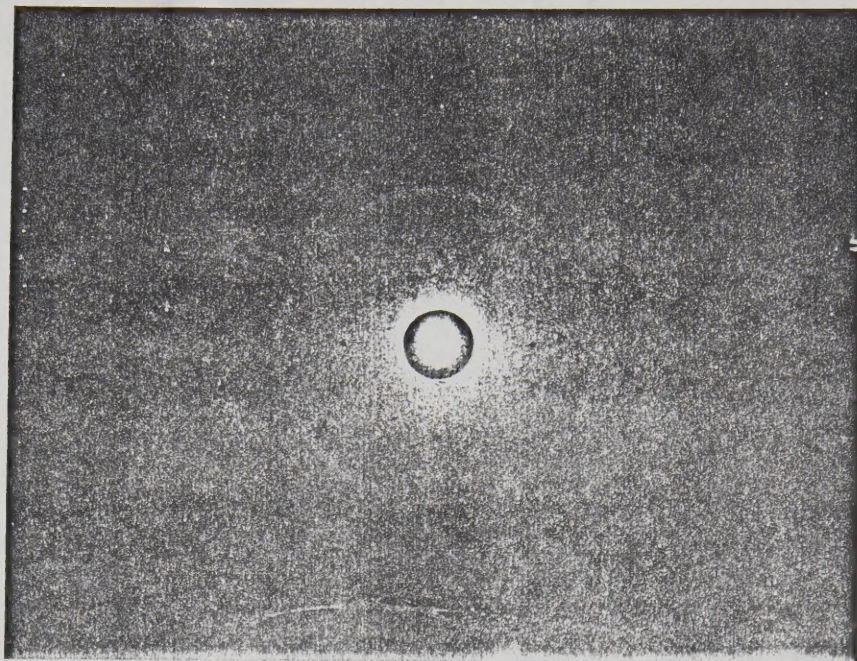
Date: 29 Aug. 1988



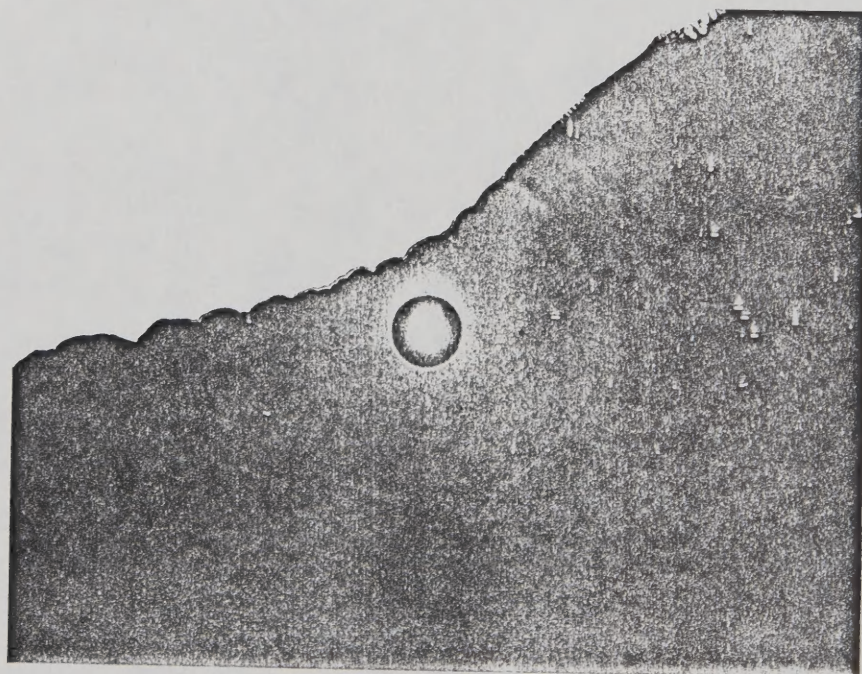
George III, Laue#1



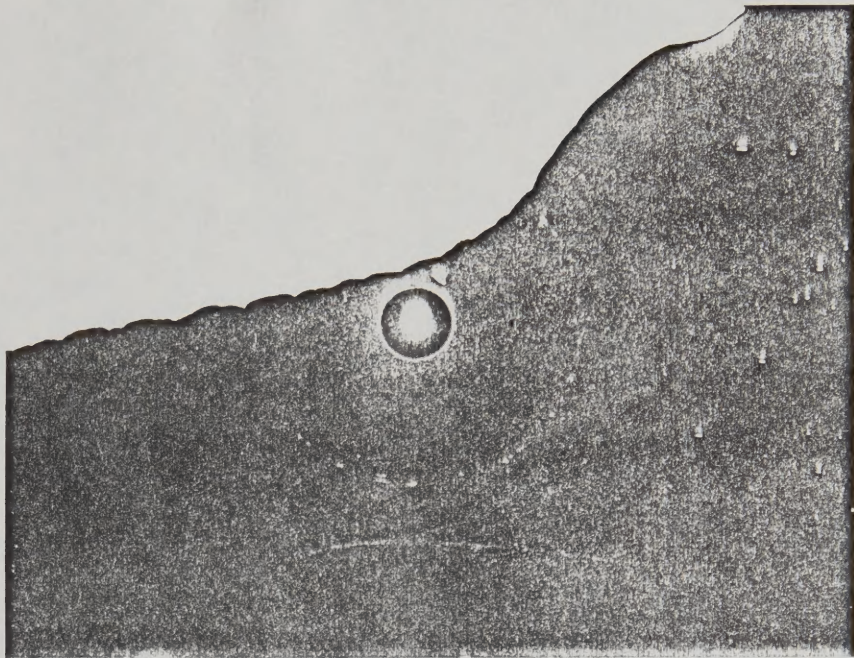
George III, Laue#2



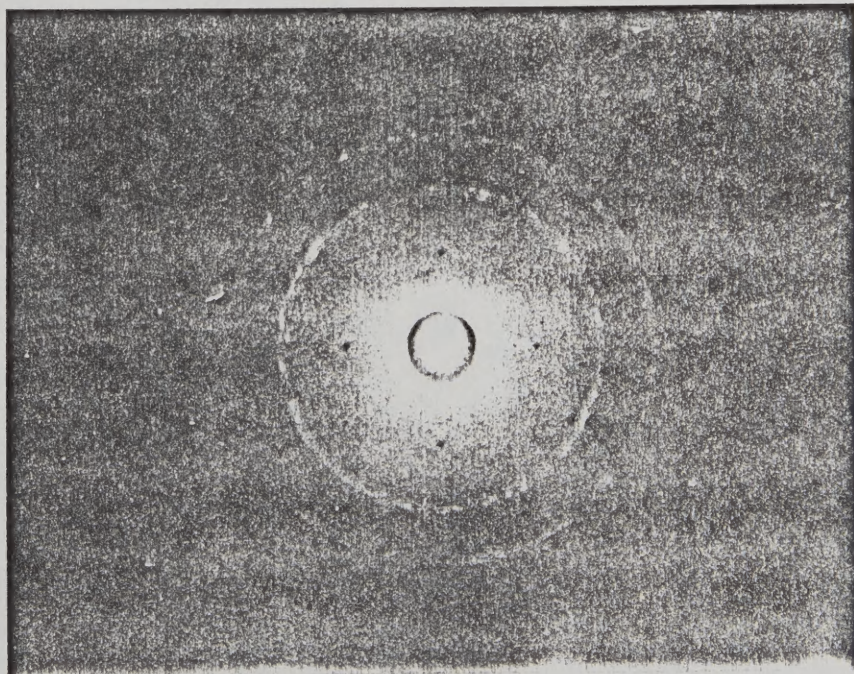
George III, Laue #3



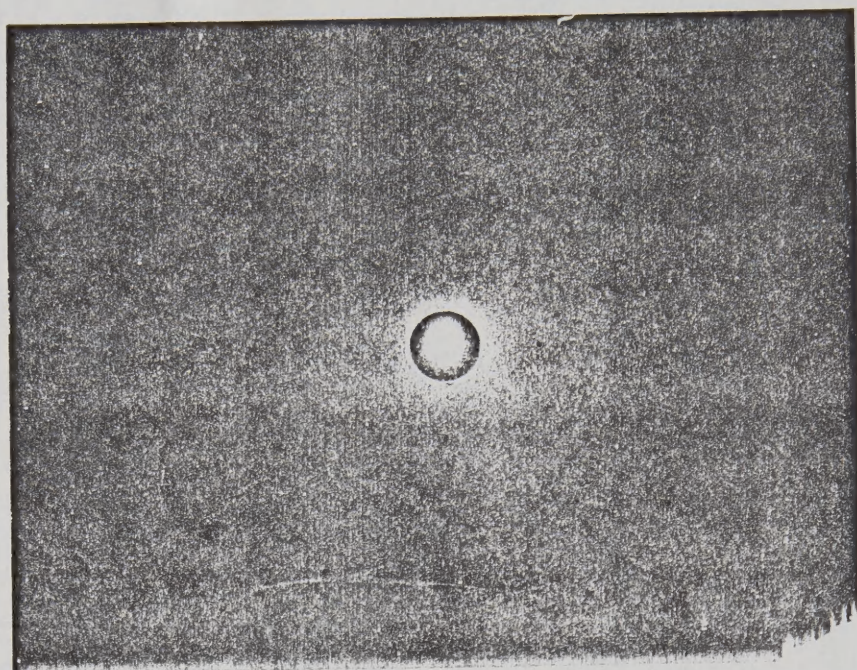
Ans 1941.147.3, Laue #1



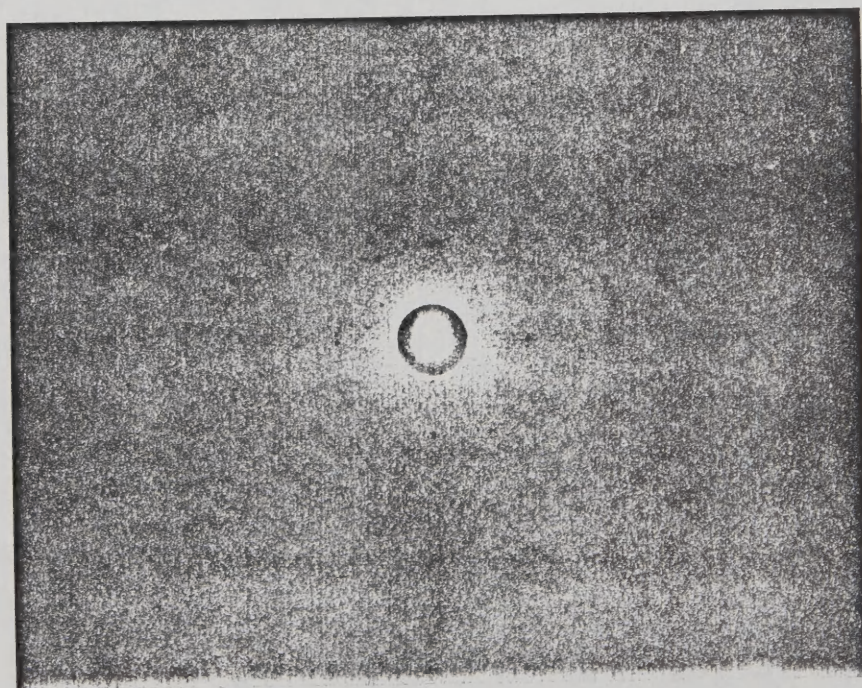
Ans 1941.147.3, Laue#2



ANS 1941.147.3, Laue#3



Ans 1942.24.1, Laue #1



Ans 1942.24.1, Laue #2

AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



September 7, 1988

Mr. Donald G. Partrick
1787 Veterans Highway
Central Islip, New York 11722

Box 1224
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894
(603) 569-5095
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

Dear Don:

I have enclosed a photocopy of the report on the Ryder Richardson-40 specimen ex-Kagin/Patterson: 1028, from Harvard University's Center for Conservation and Technical Studies. The other two coins tested were Confederations from the ANS collection. Photocopies of the Laue back-reflection photographs are also enclosed.

The specimen of RR-40 that you sent me was visually examined here and its dies were compared with other early American coppers exhibiting the same dies in differing combinations. Following this inspection, the piece was sent to Harvard's Center for Conservation and Technical Studies, for examination of the surface structure of the piece by Laue back-reflection diffractometry, as well as under the polarizing back-lit microscope.

The reverse of the RR-40 is Breen-Bressett reverse L, which is known in combination with two Vermont obverses creating varieties RR-19 and RR-20. Reverse L was sunk with a complete border of saw-tooth denticles around, including the five-seven o'clock position beneath the date. On the Kagin/Patterson: 1028 specimen no denticles can be seen in that position, and there does not appear to be enough space below the date and the semi-circular line representing the edge of the overstriking die to allow for the presence of denticles there.

On this specimen, the semi-circular line that represents the die edge of the overstriking Vermont reverse L is raised above the surface of the host coin. In a genuine off center overstrike the edge of the overstriking die will be impressed into the surface of the host coin. On this specimen the reversal of the expected surface cross-section is indicative of a transfer process. .

Examination of the surface structure at three places by Laue back-reflection diffractometry revealed both fine grained and large grained crystalline structures. While the latter are suggestive of a struck coin, the former suggest a cast coin. It is anomalous to find both sorts of grain structure on the surface of the same coin. The results of this test are ambiguous; it is my opinion that the test results should be clearly indicative of either a struck or a cast coin. Therefore, in my opinion, the Laue x-ray diffraction test results are not characteristic of a struck coin.

Your friends in the rare coin business

Mr. Donald G. Partrick

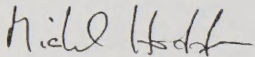
-2-

September 7, 1988

Examination by polarizing light microscopy revealed a surface composed of numerous oblate structures, resembling large grains, which in turn were composed of numerous fine grained crystals. Such surface characteristics are not typical, in my opinion, of a struck coin.

Therefore, in my opinion this specimen is not a genuine RR-40 overstruck on a host coin (probably a worn Hibernia). Rather, it appears to be a cast taken from two prototypes, a Machin's Mills obverse and an off center Vermont reverse L. In the transfer process from prototype to mold the reverse impression was not properly taken, or was, perhaps, damaged, accounting for the lack of denticles below the date on this specimen. This is a statement of my personal opinion as to the authenticity of this piece; it does not represent the opinion of Auctions by Bowers and Merena, or either of the principals of that firm.

Yours truly,



Michael J. Hodder
Director
Research Department

MJH/mkv

Enclosure:
As stated

AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



BOX 1224
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894
(603) 569-5095
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

October 5, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Don Partrick, which discusses the Vermont "RR-40" offered by Kagin's earlier this year.

I did not feel the piece to be genuine, for the reasons outlined in the enclosure.

Also enclosed is Harvard's somewhat nebulous technical report on the coin (called there the Geo. III coin), together with the comments on two of the A.N.S. Confederatio coppers. ANS 1942.24.1 is from the same mould as the Partrick Collection specimen (1786 Heraldic eagle/1785 large circle) and both are cast counterfeits, in my opinion. ANS 1941.147.3 appears genuine to me.

Should you learn anything from the source of the "RR-40" I will be grateful for any information you are at liberty to share with me.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hodder
Director, Research Department
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

Enclosure: as stated

MJH/clo

P.S. John Ford has seen the "RR-40" and also feels it to be a cast counterfeit.

Your friends in the rare coin business

WOODCLIFF INVESTMENT CORP.

P.O. BOX 588
LODI, NJ 07644

8643

Sept. 20, 88

55-217/212

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FOR

William T. Carter Jr.

⑆021202175⑆ 308 002913 1⑈ 8643

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 6, 1988

Mr. William Anton
P. O. Box 588
Lodi, NJ 07644

Dear Bill:

We have your letter mailed September 21, 1988 enclosing Lot 1028 from Kagin's May 6-7, 1988 auction. You asked for our opinion for your customer and we thank you for your feeling about any opinion we can give.

I would like for you to send me a written summary of all the data you have on the piece in question. Please include who consigned it to the auction, when it was found, and who identified it, what is its provenance, who bought it at the auction, if the \$16,000 was paid, if the consignor was paid, and any other things you know about it.

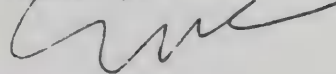
You say that "some say it is double struck." Who are the "some" and are there any written or verbal opinions of others and what are they?

If you know anyone else who has information about the piece, please give me their names and addresses.

All of these matters will be helpful.

My best to you.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

From the Desk of...

9/24/88

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

P. O. BOX 135 588

LODI, NEW JERSEY 07644

(201) 327-1141

Dear Eric,

Hoping this note finds you
and your family in the best of
health. Enclosed find lot 1028
in Regis May 6-7-1988 auction.
Coin sold for \$16,000.- Can you
please give me your expert opinion
on the coin being genuine for my
customer. To me the coin is struck
over a contemporary circulating counterfeit
halfpenny. Some say it is double

stuck. I value your opinion
over everyone else. Enclosed find \$250.00
check for your Humane Foundation

Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Wm. Austin

10/7/88

telephoned +

Mike Ringo, said Tony
Terranova saw the Ryder 40
and didn't like it.

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

P. O. BOX 588
LODI, NEW JERSEY 07644



Mr. Eric P. Newmans
6450 Oak Ave,
St. Louis, Missouri
63105

From the Desk of...

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

P. O. BOX 136

LODI, NEW JERSEY 07644

(201) 327-1141

Oct 10, 1988

Dear Eric,

I have your letter of Oct 6th.

I do not want to get into a "written summary" as you stated in your letter.

I have asked you for your expert opinion.

This is what I would like. I do not want any written stories written or published in any newspaper or non newspaper publication. Please

give me your expert opinion and

the return of the coin as soon
as you get this letter, as I
have to return the coin to the
owner by Oct 21, 1988. I shall
be meeting with him at that
time. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Wm. Carter

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 12, 1988

Mr. Michael J. Hodder, Director
Research Department
Bowers and Merena, Inc.
Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Mike:

Thank you very much for your opinion as to Ryder 40. I think it is important for me to go to the Smithsonian Institution and look over their coin and I may have to do that. The situation is a fascinating problem and your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely, -



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 17, 1988

Mr. William Anton
Woodcliff Investment Corp.
P. O. Box 588
Lodi, NJ 07644

Dear Bill:

Your letter of October 10, 1988 with respect to our 10/6/88 request for information about the coin you sent for our opinion was disappointing.

We had already spoken to Smithsonian Institution and ordered a photographic enlargement of their Vermont 40, and told them that we would like to come there to examine it in connection with an opinion we were asked to give on the same variety of coin. The enlargement arrived today and I enclose a copy of the order.

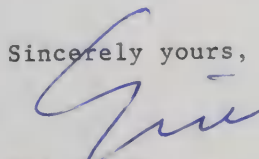
We did not plan on publishing any comment about the coin but did discuss it with others in connection with developing our opinion.

We believe that you should ask the "owner" you plan to meet on October 21 to give us additional time to study the coin, as it is a very complex item on which to give an opinion. Facts and research are always needed to give a proper opinion. Your letter indicates that you are not giving us those facts which you may know so perhaps you may be restricted from giving them.

If the owner you are meeting with will give you permission to furnish the facts or will furnish the facts that the owner knows, that would help.

The extension of time and any facts you can give will be helpful.

Sincerely yours,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

9 PM 10/18/88

Bill Anton telephoned. Asked about Ryder 40. I told him I wrote him and his answer was not of help. I told him to get further time. I then asked about the coin and he told me he has 4 or 5 sources in England from 1/2d etc & farthings, that he pays \$1 to \$15; that he has collection of many pieces. Has three 1785 pieces. He bought this piece from a 34 year old London dealer in ancient coins in a bag of 65 ^{English} coppers sent from London but would not name him. He did name Francis & Francis (Simon Francis) as a source; also from a retired dentist in England who is a collector-dealer.

I said I want to go to Washington to see the other Ryder 40. He said he was unwilling to pay for it. I suggested that he go & he said no.

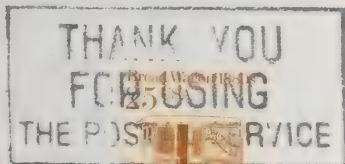
I asked more about the piece & he said that it was sold for \$16,000 to Partrick but after tests which Full said were all ^{positive} OK it was returned to Full and returned to Anton who sold it "as is" for \$2500 to a new person who is a collector. He said the Breen said it was OK when he first saw it, but later hedged to Full which Anton thinks was because of a personality clash between Breen & Anton.

He gave me one month more to work on it. He will tell owner that and show him my letter when it arrives.

gpn

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

P. O. BOX 588
LODI, NEW JERSEY 07644



*Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave,
St. Louis, Missouri*

63105

From the Desk of...

Int. Oct 22

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

P. O. BOX 105 588

LODI, NEW JERSEY 07644

(201) 327-1141

Dear Eric,
Nice talking with you earlier
this week. I met with my
client on Friday as I told you and
asked for an extension as we discussed.
It's O.K. Have the coin back to me by
W. 5 as I will see him on that
day also. He owns the largest book
cover advertising Corp. in America. I
would also like to get a blowup of
the R 40 4x as your receipt also
shows. I will send you a list of

the better $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2}$ I see it and 3rd
I have. I am about 700 nice pieces.

my client ~~note~~ wanted here has over
1000 per lot run of the mill. I have

as stated, 4 main persons supplying me
from England. It is dying up as
the coins do not come in to me as
they have in the past. A book is needed
and look forward to you putting it out.

Eric, I have started my life's work
on N.J. Copper. I am writing my

book. If you have any special pieces
as to rarity and condition please let me

know, any special over strikes or
errors please make note of to me. Have you
ever heard of a small plan piece the struck over
a cut down large plan piece too?
Sincerely,
Rich Apts

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 26, 1988

Mr. William Anton
P. O. Box 588
Lodi, NJ 07644

Dear Bill:

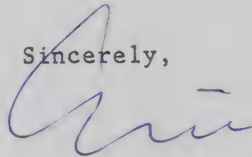
Working on the Ryder 40 you sent to us for our opinion requires substantial examination of other coins, assembly of data, and analysis of the facts. We are in the process of doing this. Remember that our work is without compensation and your check only covers minor expense. We are enclosing for you a photocopy of both sides of the Smithsonian Ryder 40 we ordered and hope that will help. I am disappointed not to be able to examine that specimen in Washington, as they will not send it out for examination.

In our telephone conversation on October 10, 1988 you gave us one month to return the piece and that time is needed. It is not reasonable for you to ask for a favor and then ask us to return the item in the middle of the project. I feel the owner will understand.

We feel you should tell us the name of the owner whom you describe as a book cover advertising owner and the name of one of your resources described as a retired dentist in England. You gave us other names. We are not commercial and so you should not worry about losing a customer or a resource.

I am too committed to numismatics to undertake work with insufficient time or insufficient facts.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

P.S. Your request for our cooperation as to other matters can be put on a later agenda.

EPN

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 26, 1988

Mr. William Anton
P. O. Box 588
Lodi, NJ 07644

Dear Bill:

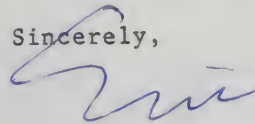
Working on the Ryder 40 you sent to us for our opinion requires substantial examination of other coins, assembly of data, and analysis of the facts. We are in the process of doing this. Remember that our work is without compensation and your check only covers minor expense. We are enclosing for you a photocopy of both sides of the Smithsonian Ryder 40 we ordered and hope that will help. I am disappointed not to be able to examine that specimen in Washington, as they will not send it out for examination.

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Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

P.S. Your request for our cooperation as to other matters can be put on a later agenda.

EPN

I. ORDER FORM

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PAD 816.00	DOC 10/12/88
DPR	DOS 10/14/88

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Organization or Firm
Address

ERIC P. NEWMAN

Telephone Number

P.O. BOX 14020
ST. LOUIS MO 63178
(314) 331-6540

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TOTAL NUMBER OF PRINTS AND/OR SLIDES				2		
TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER						16.00
AMOUNT DUE						

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PD SPN 155
10/26/88

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PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

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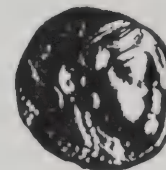
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From the Desk of...

Nov. 1, 1988
Eric,

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

P. O. BOX 136588

LODI, NEW JERSEY 07644

(201) 327-1141

I got your letter yesterday and was expecting the R R 40 and your opinion on same. It seems on our last phone conversation we had, a misunderstanding on the length of time for the coin to be examined. I have an obligation to the owner (my client) and I do not want to break that trust. I told him one month would be long enough to get the final results from you. At all

phone conversation I extended the time
I needed and I confirmed this time
with him after I spoke to you. I have
been put in an uncompromising position.
I just spoke to the owner and he
wants the coin back. Eric, I am
sorry but upon receipt of the
letter return the coin registered mail.
If you can not give your opinion after
this length of time one way or
another just return the coin anyway.
When I first received the RRV0 after
one day of comparing and testing I
was able to make up my mind
on the piece. I can't understand

From the Desk of...

Woodcliff Investment Corp.

P. O. BOX 130 588

LODI, NEW JERSEY 07644

(201) 327-1141

that this coin is requiring so
much checking out by you, I compared
Spec. RR 19 and 20 reverse with the
coin in question. The coin is struck,
and overstruck. I repeat, if you
can not give an opinion at this
time, please return the coin anyway.
I shall expect the coin by Nov. 5th.
and return it to owner. As to the name
of my client and owner and my
retired dentist friend in England; it

has taken me many, many years
to develop clients to spend thousands
of dollars with me each week,
and persons who supply me with
cars that no one knows about.
This is my privileged information.
I'm sure you being an attorney will
appreciate this. I have gathered over

2000 yrs. Contemporary Rec II and Rec III $\frac{1}{4}$ do $\frac{1}{2}$ d
in the past 2 years from England. The
people who supply me buy them for
next to nothing and don't know contributors
from machines. I do get several machines
in this manner also. The one name I
gave you over the phone has been unable
to supply even one piece in the past year.
Expecting the RDC by Nov 8 the end would
like your opinion if possible.
Sincerely,
Bill

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 9, 1988

Registered Return Receipt

Mr. William Anton
Woodcliff Investment Corp.
P. O. Box 588
Lodi, NJ 07644

Dear Bill:

An opinion as to the authenticity of a submitted copper coin now known as either Vermont Ryder Richardson #40 or Vlack 13-88VT(A) was requested in your letter to us mailed September 21, 1988. The variety on its obverse contains the legend **GEORGIVS·III·REX** with head facing right and on its reverse **INDE ET LIB** and **1788** with a seated figure facing left. This variety is a muling of prior published dies.

The first numismatic description of this variety was disclosed by Ron Guth in the Colonial Newsletter for May 1986 (p. 959) after examining it in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. I do not know whether or not Butch Vosloh of the Smithsonian staff first noticed the variety.

The submitted piece was consigned by you to be auctioned at the May 6-7, 1988 Kagin's Numismatics, Inc. sale in San Diego, CA. It was publicized in NUMISMATIC NEWS on March 22, 1988 and there illustrated and was said to have been recently discovered amongst a mixed lot of counterfeit halfpence shipped to you from England. It received other publicity also. It was described and illustrated as Lot 1028 in the sale and was considered genuine by the catalogers. It was bid up to \$16,000 and sold to a New York collector conditioned on genuineness. It was subsequently returned by that collector to Kagin's as a not genuine, the decision being based on one or more opinions of other than ourselves. It was then returned to you as consignor and sold on an as-is basis for \$2500 to another person.

The submitted coin weighs 7.02 grams and has a specific gravity of 8.77. The Smithsonian coin weighs 7.383 grams, but its specific gravity is not available to us at this time. Both pieces are 180 degrees offset if turned on the vertical axis.

The submitted coin differs from the Smithsonian coin in that the submitted coin appears to be an overstrike on a counterfeit British halfpence, whereas the Smithsonian example does not show any undercoin whatever. Our knowledge of the Smithsonian example has only been through enlarged photographic prints ordered by us, but it has not been personally examined by us. We have no information as to its specific gravity or whether it is genuine, an electro, a cast or otherwise. We assume it is genuine, but it has no pedigree.

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The top design and the design of the undercoin of the submitted coin are more or less in register on both sides, which is an odd coincidence. The top of the head and the top leaf of the obverse of the undercoin show above the top of the head and the top leaf of the top design. The curls on the obverse of the undercoin still show above the ribbon bow on the top design and to the right of the ends of that bow.

There is a raised lump under the **S** of **GEORGIVS** on the line of the back of the head of the undercoin. This is part of the bottom of the **S** of the overstruck design. The drop-off at its outside portion is unnatural for a striking.

The letters **BRIT** on the reverse of the undercoin are visible at 7-8 o'clock, the **R** and the lower part of the **B** being easier to see. The letters **IA** of the undercoin are at 2-2:30 o'clock on the reverse and the upper right side of the shield of the undercoin shows an outline passing through to the top of the **L** in **LIB** of the top design. On the obverse of both the top design and the undercoin parts of **REX** show, the area being heavily pocked.

The **I** in **LIB** and the final **8** in the date on the reverse of the submitted coin are clean and perfect. On the Smithsonian example the lower part of the **I** shows a die break as does the last **8**. In the Bressett plates for Vermont pieces and on other coins examined the reverse shows an unbroken **I** in **LIB** and an unbroken **8**.

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The second **G** in **GEORGIVS** is not distinct on the top design and the elements which do show were apparently distorted by accidental disturbance in production. This is because the left letters of **GEORGIVS** are from the overstriking design and the right letters are from the undercoin design, thus accounting for this blurred situation.

On the reverse of the submitted piece the perimeter of the die of the overcoin is raised above the field of the undercoin at 1-2 o'clock and at 3-6 o'clock, and on the obverse it is raised at 11:30-2 o'clock. Porosity is at 10 o'clock on the obverse and at 7 o'clock on the reverse. There is additional porosity at 3-5 o'clock on the obverse and 2-3 o'clock on the reverse. The facial expression on the overcoin obverse is smooth and clear but the lettering is substantially pockmarked. There are heavy obverse dents on the bodice, the shirt and over the L of LIB on the reverse. The outside areas of the submitted coin are much more granular than the center parts.

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The obverse of a coin with the top design used to make an obverse mold could have been a Vlack variety 13 obverse. The top design on the reverse used to make a reverse mold could have been a Vermont reverse of Bressett variety L. This might account for the earlier state of the **I IN LIB** in Vermont variety L being different from the broken state of the **I** in the **LIB** in the Smithsonian example.

The coloring of the submitted coin is uneven and unnatural near the raw parts. This is sometimes due to the thinness and instability of modern copper recoloring chemicals rather than from circulation or handling of a naturally darkened copper coin. This observation alone is not sufficient to draw a conclusion but merely raises a cautionary flag.

No conclusion of forgery can be specifically drawn from the fact that the 1986 publication of the discovery of the new muling could have stimulated a forgery being cast from other coins having identical dies, but this possibility must be noted.

The specific gravity of 8.77 is slightly low, but normal coinage of this sort could have air pockets or adulterants to cause this problem. However, suspicion of casting cannot be eliminated in such a situation.

No conclusion of forgery can be positively reached from the assertion that the submitted piece, being American made, found its way into a group of English counterfeit halfpence in England. Batty in the nineteenth century formed a collection in England of 35,000 different copper pieces and in it he had a few examples of American struck pieces but he did not have any muling like the submitted piece or most of the other American made counterfeit halfpence.

The conclusion therefore is that the submitted coin is a cast forgery from molds made up by using a Vermont variety L reverse, a Machin's Mills variety 13 obverse, and an eighteenth century counterfeit halfpence.

Certain obtainable information as to source data of the submitted piece was not made available to us and an opportunity to examine the Smithsonian example was not arranged for. No metallic examination was undertaken using penetrating rays of various types.

Any unclear or incorrect statements in this opinion will be gladly clarified or corrected when called to our attention. This has been a tedious study and it has been done as a public service without compensation as is our usual custom. We thank you for the check for \$25 which covered postage cost and the two Smithsonian photographs which we ordered. The submitted coin is returned herewith. We hope you understand the basis for our opinion.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

By _____
Eric P. Newman, President

EPN:bv

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The letters **BRIT** on the reverse of the undercoin are visible at 7-8 o'clock, the **R** and the lower part of the **B** being easier to see. The letters **IA** of the undercoin are at 2-2:30 o'clock on the reverse and the upper right side of the shield of the undercoin shows an outline passing through to the top of the **L** in **LIB** of the top design. On the obverse of both the top design and the undercoin parts of **REX** show, the area being heavily pocked.

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Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

By _____
Eric P. Newman, President

EPN:bv

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

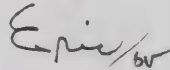
January 27, 1989

Mr. Michael J. Hodder
Director, Research Department
Bowers and Merena, Inc.
Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Michael:

Sufficient time has elapsed so that I now feel I may send you a copy of the Ryder 40 opinion which I rendered. I appreciate your help with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", with a small "bv" written below the end of the signature.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

enc.

Last minute changes

2.

In the striking of a coin over a previously struck coin, it is to be noted that the undercoin already has a raised design and the die used to strike over it would have an incused design. The overstriking die thus produces another raised surface on the undercoin and deforms the undercoin design and lettering to a substantial extent. If the die used for the overstriking is smaller than the undercoin or if the overstriking is off center, the perimeter of the overstriking die will leave a circular depression on the surface of the undercoin. If the die for overstriking was larger than the undercoin and not applied off center, the perimeter of the overstriking die would not show on the undercoin.

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There is a raised lump under the **S** of **GEORGIVS** on the line of the back of the head of the undercoin, and this could be from a break or dent in the die from which the undercoin might have been struck and this lump was not seriously deformed by the field of the top design.

this is the part of the bottom of the S of overstruck design. The drop off at its outside portion is unnatural for a striking.

The letters **BRIT** on the reverse of the undercoin are visible at 7-8 o'clock, the **R** and the lower part of the **B** being easier to see. The letters **IA** of the undercoin are at 2-2:30 o'clock on the reverse and the upper right side of the shield of the undercoin shows an outline passing through to the top of the **L** in **LIB** of the top design. On the obverse of both the top design and the undercoin parts of **REX** show, the area being heavily pocked.

and the final S on the date
The **I** in **LIB** on the reverse of the submitted coin *are* clean and perfect. On the Smithsonian example the lower part of the **I** shows a die break *as does the last S.* In the Bressett plates for Vermont pieces and on other coins examined the reverse shows an unbroken **I** in **LIB**. *on an unbroken S.*

The **S** in **GEORGIVS** is thicker at the top portion of the submitted coin when compared to pieces having *the Smithsonian example* **Vick's obverse 13 (Variety 13-78B)** because *the S in the submitted coin is on the undercoin and the S of obverse is the overstruck design.* The second **G** in **GEORGIVS** is not distinct on the top design and the elements which do show were apparently distorted by an accidental disturbance in production. *the left half of GEORGIVS are from the overstriking design and the right half are from the undercoin design, thus accounting for this situation.*

this is because blurred

Last minute changes

3.

On the reverse of the submitted piece the perimeter of the die of the overcoin is raised above the field of the undercoin at 1-2 o'clock and at 3-6 o'clock, and on the obverse it is raised at 11:30-2 o'clock. Porosity is at 10 o'clock on the obverse and at 7 o'clock on the reverse. There is additional porosity at 3-5 o'clock on the obverse and 2-3 o'clock on the reverse. The facial expression on the overcoin obverse is smooth and clear but the lettering is substantially pockmarked. There are heavy obverse dents on the bodice, the shirt and over the L of LIB on the reverse. The outside areas of the submitted coin are much more granular than the center parts.

as well as some smoothed file marks. The edge is also
The edge of the submitted coin is very raw and red with black lumps and dents. ~~The I in GEORGIVUS on the obverse of the submitted piece is thin when compared to the wide I on the Smithsonian piece. This would indicate that the Smithsonian example was struck somewhat after the submitted piece and that recutting or a die break had occurred.~~

pocked. These indicate abnormal conditions signal caution.
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Let the money be compared with the I on the Smithsonian piece. The I on the submitted piece is thin when compared to the wide I on the Smithsonian piece. This would indicate that the Smithsonian example was struck somewhat after the submitted piece and that recutting or a die break had occurred.

3/21/91

Spoke to Mike Hodder by telephone.

He said he saw a large group of Ryder 40 in Anton's possession. All were off center in the same manner. All had the same patina.

He said one of them was sold to a NY collector who has it.

He said Patrick sent a check for Anton's 1/2d book and Anton said he wanted cash. Patrick refused and won't buy the book now.



AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.

When great collections are sold, Bowers and Merena sells them.

March 22, 1991

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Enclosed is my copy of Bill Anton's The Forgotten Coins of the North American Colonies. The "best" part of the book, in my opinion, are the plates, which are of good quality. References to the Ryder-40 pieces will be found on pp. 34-35: Note how Bill makes my comments sound like I approved of these pieces!

Once you are finished with this, would you please return it to me well packaged in a mailing box? I suspect that this will become a "classic" of a sort in the future.

Yours truly,

Michael J. Hodder
Director of Research
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

MJH/kdw

Enclosure: as stated

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 27, 1991

Mr. Michael J. Hodder
Bowers and Merena, Inc.
Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Michael:

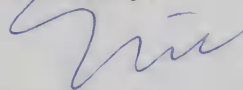
Thank you for lending me your copy of The Forgotten Coins which I may soon forget.

One feature of the book is that its price may prevent it from being widely read and thus not have a chance to become a "classic," as you indicate is a possibility.

If you have any doubts about the new crop of Ryder 40 pieces, you may need a new set of numismatic definitions. Should "genuine counterfeit" or "forged counterfeit" or "counterfeit counterfeit" be defined for possible application.

I don't think "ye author" will send me a copy.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

5/27/92

Eric -

Enclosed are photos of the cast counterfeit "Ryder 40" that a west coast dealer is trying to sell for the owner. It is plated in the Anton/Kesse book (#158), and is supposedly overstruck on a counterfeit halfpenny (part of the date shows near the reverse rim at 11:00). It's unfortunate that these things can't be stopped.

Mike

Mike Ringo
Box 3010
Albany, NY 12203



sent by Ringo

Cast ctf of Ryder 40

Illustrated as Item #158
in Anton-Kesse book.



sent by Ringo

Cast ctf of Ryder 40

illustrated in Anton-Kesse book
as Item 158.

**Mercantile
Money Museum**

Mercantile Tower
Seventh & Washington
St. Louis, Mo. 63101
314-421-1819

To: Tony Carlotto
P.O. Box 594
Sheffield, MA 01257

November 20, 1998

From: Eric P. Newman

I was looking up something else in my files and came across my Ryder 40 file. I remembered your book's tactful comments and I wondered if anyone has really checked the Smithsonian piece thoroughly. It would be easy in my opinion to tell if it was salted into the collection. It would have the same characteristics as the one I examined and like those others examined.

You may or may not have seen my 1988 opinion and I enclose a copy. My opinion was requested by Anton after the challenges took place and he sent me the coin which he said was in the auction.

I think the matter ought to be put to rest by (1) examining the Smithsonian piece and (2) asking to see a copy of their accession records of both Ryder 31 and Ryder 40. If they can't locate their accession records that is also important.

OK

Ken Bressett told me on 1/31/01 by telephone

Vermont ~~##~~
Ryder
40

4/17/63 "Study Maternal Consistency of a Group
of Facsimiles in silver and copper patterned
after ancient and foreign ^{coins}, including also
fantasy pieces inspired from ancient coins.

270 specimens. No papers. brought to
the division by ~~Frank~~ ^{referred} L. Peterson ~~into~~

Peterson gave them to Smithsonian. The
Ryder 40 was in the group but not specifically
described.

This info was obtained by Ken Bressett
on a recent visit to Smithsonian.

Ken told me that in Anton's book it was
said that 4 or 5 Ryder 40 were found
in England.

I said I would have to check up on
when Dr Fattel, the English dentist, was
making copies of coins

Ken said that he examined the Ryder 40
at Smithsonian and it had bubbles and
appeared to be cast.

Sunday, February 09, 2003 America Online: EricNumis

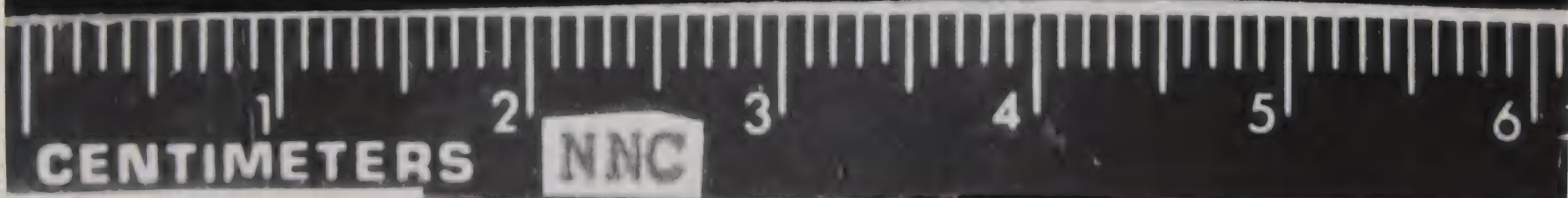
Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 2/9/2003 8:11:26 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: kbressett@pcisys.com

Ken: I am most appreciative of the information that you found a record f the accession of the Ryder 40 in the Smithsonian redords. Mendel Peterson was a good friend of mine and found many coppers on Rehobeth Beach in Delaware. Has anyone looked at the Ryder 40 at the Smithsonian to determine if it is genuine and not like the flood of others which later appeared. Eric

Keneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
kbressett@pcisys.net

appearance?

Sunday, February 09, 2003 America Online: EricNumis



Ryder 40
Smithsonian Institution



CENTIMETERS

NNC

Ryder 40
Smithsonian Institution

Kagin's to offer rare halfpenny

Colonial coin specialists will be watching closely when an extremely rare 1788 halfpenny appears at the May 6-7, 1988, Kagin's Numismatics Inc., sale in San Diego.

The recently discovered piece, found among a mixed lot of counterfeit halfpence shipped in from England, is only the second known and the discovery coin resides in the Smithsonian Colonial collection.

The Vermont halfpence, RR-40, is a product of Machin's Mill. It shows the same George III obverse as Number 13 on the Vlack plate and is muled with the Bressett-L reverse from the Vermont series.

The obverse die is linked with two Connecticut reverses, Miller G.2 of 1787 and D of 1788. The reverse die is linked with two Vermont obverses in turn, Ryder 19 and 20, which also are numbered as Bressett 10 and 13.

The typically crudely manufactured Machin's Mill coin shows "some of the detail of



An important coin for Vermont specialists, a very rare 1788 Vermont halfpenny, will be auctioned by Kagin's Numismatics Inc., May 6-7, in San Diego. The piece is described as crudely struck, with otherwise clean and even surfaces, with a mixture of light and dark brown color.

Fine-12." According to Kagin's, it has been struck over another crude issue, showing some underlying planchet irregularity and light porosity.

The possibility exists that the piece is double struck, rather than struck over another design, but Kagin's experts have been

unable to attribute the under strike, which is visible on both the obverse and reverse. The piece weighs 108.64 grains.

The first specimen was discovered by Ron Guth while he was attributing the Smithsonian collection.

*Numismatics News
22 March 1988*

National Coin Week slated for April 17-23



THE OBERSE and reverse of the rare 1788 Vermont halfpenny to be sold at auction by Kagins Numismatics Inc.

1788 Vermont halfpenny to highlight Kagin's sale

Kagin's Numismatic Auctions will offer for sale a 1788 Vermont halfpenny during its May 6-7 auction in San Diego.

According to a Kagin's press release, the coin is one of only two known and the only specimen available on the open market. The discovery coin was found by Ron Guth in the process of attributing the Colonial collection at the Smithsonian Institution. The second specimen was discovered within the last six months in a mixed lot of counterfeit halfpence which came from England.

The Vermont halfpenny, Ryder-Richardson 40 variety ("The Copper Coins of Vermont," a reprint of *The Numismatist*, by John M. Richardson, based on Hillyer Ryder's work), is a Machin's Mill product and shows the same George III obverse as No. 13 on the Vlack plate from *Early American Coins* by Robert A. Vlack. The obverse is die linked with two Connecticut reverses, Miller G.2 and D of 1788 from *The State Coinage of Connecticut* by Henry C. Miller. The reverse is die linked with two Vermont

obverses, Ryder 19 and 20 from *The Colonial Coins of Vermont* by Hillyer Ryder.

The coin has some of the detail of Fine 12 but was crudely manufactured as is typical of Machin's Mill products, according to the Kagin's press release. The coin was struck over another crudely made issue and shows some underlying planchet irregularity and light porosity. It is possible that this coin is actually double struck, but the undertype, which is visible on the obverse to the right and on the reverse periphery at 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock, is difficult to pin down. The surfaces are otherwise clean and even, showing a mixture of light and dark brown color, according to the press release. The coin weigh 108.64 grains.

For more information about the coin or a copy of the catalog, contact George Fuld, Director of Auctions, Kagins Numismatics Inc., Sutter Plaza, Suite 700, 1388 Sutter St., San Francisco, Calif. 94109, or call (800) 367-5428.



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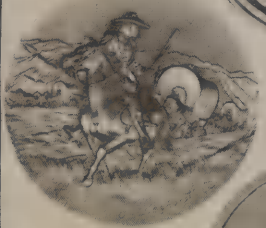


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Kagin's auction brings \$320,000 hammer total

Coins auctioned during Kagin's Numismatic Auctions Inc. sale May 6-7 at the San Diego Coin Show brought a \$320,000 hammer total.

George Fuld, director of auctions for KNA, said the prices realized for the large cents sold were 40 percent to 50 percent higher than expected. Other coins in the auction also brought prices higher than anticipated, Fuld said.

Fuld said more than \$600,000 in consigned coins were withdrawn from the sale. He said the withdrawn consignments were the result of the company's legal difficulties.

Attorneys for KNA filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy April 19 in San Francisco. According to documents filed with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California, banks that had security interest in coins consigned to the auction, coins which had been used as loan collateral, had the authority to remove those coins from the auction block.

Of just under 1,900 lots originally advertised for auction, 725 lots, or nearly 40 percent of the consignments, were withdrawn, according to the list of prices realized.

Grabbing the top hammer price was a 1788 Vermont copper, Ryder-Richardson 40 variety ("Copper Coins of Vermont," a reprint of *The Numismatist*, by John M. Richardson, based on Hillyer Ryder's work), one of two known, bringing \$16,000.

The discovery piece was found by Ron Guth in the process of attributing the Colonial coinage at the Smithsonian Institution where the coin is housed.

The Vermont half-pence is a Machin's Mill product and shows the same George III obverse as No. 13 on the Vlack plate (*Early American Coins* by Robert A. Vlack) and muled with the Bresset-L reverse from the Vermont series.

The obverse is die linked with two Connecticut reverses, Miller G.2 and D of 1788

(*The State Coinage of Connecticut* by Henry C. Miller).

The reverse is die linked with two Vermont obverses, Ryder 19 and 20 (*The Colonial Coins of Vermont* by Hillyer Ryder).

The coin has some of the detail of Fine 12 but was crudely manufactured as is typical of Machin's Mill products, according to the auction catalog. The coin was struck over another crudely made issue and shows some underlying planchet irregularity and light porosity.

It is possible the coin is actually double struck, but the undertype, which is visible on the obverse to the right and on the reverse periphery at 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock, is difficult to determine.

According to the catalogers, the surfaces are otherwise clean and even, showing a mixture of light and dark brown color. The coin weighs 108.64 grains.

The G.M. "Pat" Patterson collection of United States half cents and large cents brought a combined hammer total \$81,500.

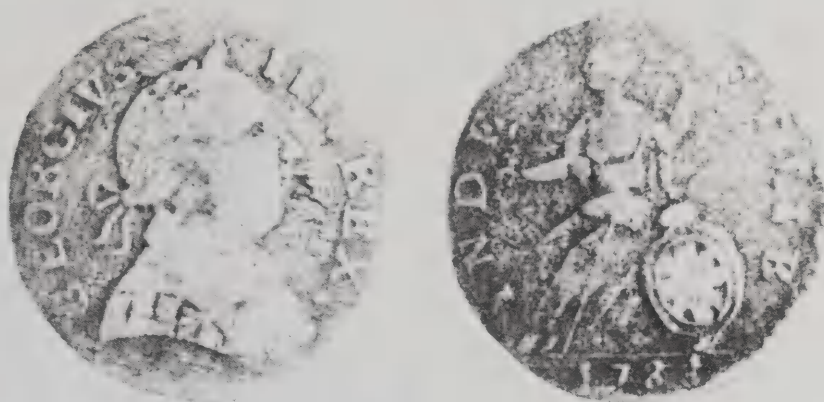
Other noteworthy coins and their hammer prices were:

- 1823 Coronet cent Newcomb 2, (*United States Copper Cents: 1816-1857* by Howard R. Newcomb), About Uncirculated 55, \$5,000.
- 1874-S Seated Liberty quarter dollar, Mint State 65, \$3,100.
- 1853 \$20 pioneer gold, U.S. Assay Office, .900 THOUS., MS-60, \$5,000.
- 1809/8 Capped Draped Bust gold \$5, AU-58+, \$3,300.
- 1795 Draped Bust silver dollar, Extremely Fine 40, Bolender 14 (*United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803* by M.H. Bolender), \$1,950.
- 1878 \$3 gold piece, MS-62, \$3,000.
- 1839 Coronet cent, N-11, MS-63, \$2,300.
- 1939 Oregon Trail commemorative set of Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco strikes, MS-65, \$3,000.
- 1803 Capped Bust \$10 eagle, EF-45

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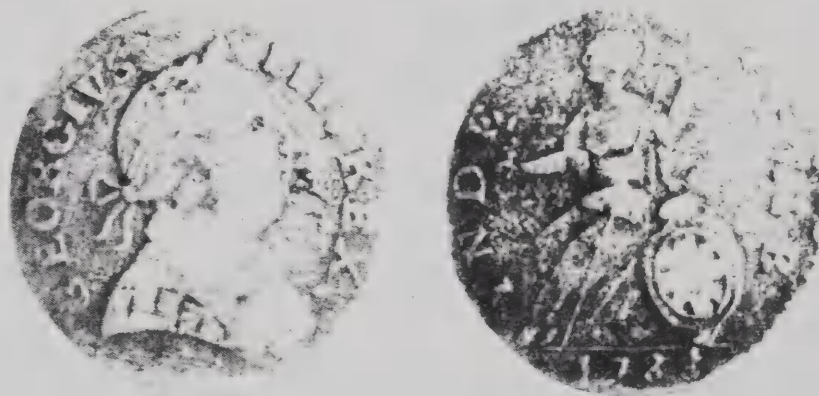
Museum in Colorado Springs, Colo., after

DISCOVERY of a new ATLEE HALFPENCE**(TN-108)****● Comments by ye Editor****NEW ATLEE HALFPENCE****Vlack 13-88VTA****Photograph enlarged 2X**

A new Atlee Halfpence has been discovered by CNL Patron Ron Guth in the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The specimen which was misattributed as a Vermont Ryder 31 is actually a muling of two previously known dies. The obverse is from an American made George III die made by James Atlee and known as Vlack 13, and the reverse is from another Atlee die, the 1788 INDE ETLIB Vermont reverse known as Bressett L. Die juxtaposition is normal ↑↑ and the specimen weight is 7.383 grams (113.92 grains). It has not been possible to make a positive determination as to whether a shearing or cutting type planchet punch was employed in the manufacture of the planchet; in some places the edge appears to be cut, and in others sheared.

In which series to place this specimen depends upon one's point of view! If one considers it to be a Vermont specimen, then it should probably be designated as Ryder 40, the next open number. On the other hand it could also be designated as Vlack 13-88VTA recognizing it as an American made George III counterfeit halfpence from dies manufactured by Atlee and struck during his tenure at Machin's Mills. It is the opinion of ye Editor that the latter designation is the more appropriate.

Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Cory Gilliland, Curator, National Numismatic Collections, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution for providing the photographs and for the background information regarding the discovery of this specimen and for the details of its physical characteristics.

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Vlack 13-88VTA

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No. 28

A very unusual specimen, and the only one encountered to date. A George III halfpenny the obverse of which is of the English manufacturing style, fully letter punched; however the reverse die was entirely cut by hand, bears the date 177?, and is undoubtedly of the American manufacturing style. The reverse die was much too large for a mating with the smaller obverse die. A guess as to its genesis might be that the obverse die traveled with someone from England to the Colonies, where it fell into the hands of the reverse die maker who married the dies for a limited striking.

No. 29

A 1770 George III halfpenny discussed in the text as being found among the RR40 overstrike hoard. Very recent information disclosed that the 14 specimens of the micro "0" dated 1770 counterfeits were discovered by a fellow using a metal detector, buried in a disintegrated leather money pouch along with the five RR40 overstrikes. As of this writing, the authors have not seen any examples of the micro "0" 1770 counterfeits in any of the over 5000 counterfeits in various collections we have examined. See pages 34-36 of the text.

No. 30

A specimen of the RR40, which represents the combination of a Machin Mills halfpenny obverse muled with a 1788 Vermont reverse. Struck over a counterfeit George III halfpenny, this is coin #2 as described on page 35 of the text.

THE FORGOTTEN COINS
OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES

~~~~~

A MODERN SURVEY OF  
EARLY ENGLISH AND IRISH COUNTERFEIT COPPERS  
CIRCULATING IN THE AMERICAS

Including a report on the recent  
site inspection of the Machin Mills mint,  
and a study of the Buste Enfantin  
coinage of Louis XV circulating in  
Colonial America

BY  
WILLIAM T. ANTON, JR.  
AND  
BRUCE P. KESSE

## THE COUNTERFEIT COPPER AS AN UNDERTYPE

Our Forgotten Coins, specifically the Irish and English halfpence, served as host coins for a surprising number of State and other Colonial coppers; consider if you will the previously discussed Albany Church Penny. However such usage is not surprising when considered in the context that -in ye authors' opinion- perhaps as high as 80-90% of all coppers circulating in the Americas were counterfeit British halfpence. Given the counterfeits' generally light weight, it might also be concluded that the overtypes coins may themselves have been contemporaneous counterfeits.

Examples of the usage of counterfeits as host coins are as follows:

- A single known specimen of the Connecticut 5P is struck over a George III Irish halfpenny.

- The following New Jersey coppers come struck variously over George II and George III English halfpence, and George III Irish halfpence:

Maris 16-d, 17-b, 19-M, 34-J, 40-b, 48-X,  
56-n, 70-x, 71-y and 72-z.

- Vermont coppers are known struck over George III English and Irish halfpence; overstrikes are found on the following Richardson Ryder varieties:

RR 10, 15, 18, 25, 28, 33, 35, and most recently  
the controversial RR 40 overstrike

A public opinion of late is that a second-known RR 40 overstrike which recently appeared is a cast fabrication, a belief which has been propagated without the knowledge of certain pertinent information. In a small hoard of some 87 counterfeit halfpence and farthings, which originated from England, there were found to be two distinct subgroups of specimens. One was a group of 14 counterfeit George III halfpence dated 1770; all were from the same obverse and

reverse dies, however each was of a different size and weight. All were EXTREMELY FINE in grade, with the reverse die characterized by a micro "0" in the date. Many attributes of the coins may in time prove them to be of American origin, including letter punches, general style, and the profile of George III which very much resembles that found on several Machin Mills issues. The other distinct group contained five RR 40 Vermont coppers, all of which are struck over different counterfeit halfpence host coins.

For our readers, listed below are the weights and sizes of four of the five coins, the fifth being presently housed in a private collection and not available for study:

|         |                                                      |             |        |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| COIN #1 | Overstruck on a Geo III 1/2d.<br>(1775 date legible) | 5.60 grams  | 27.5mm |
| COIN #2 | Overstruck on a Geo III 1/2d.                        | 6.39 grams  | 27.5mm |
| COIN #3 | Overstruck on a Geo III 1/2d.                        | 6.70 grams  | 27.5mm |
| COIN #4 | Overstruck on a Geo III 1/2d.                        | 13.50 grams | 31.0mm |

As in the case of the RR 40 discovery coin now housed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the reverses of each of the above four coins show no evidence of bulging as frequently found on that reverse die. As a point of interest, the two above-mentioned distinct groups of coins all have the same color, shading, texture and rusty appearance in some areas, perhaps the result of being in a fire or buried together. The balance of the group of 87 coins contained the usual assortment of grades, colors and types typically found in a hoard of counterfeit coppers.

On March 29, 1990, Michael Hodder examined eight of the above mentioned 1770 counterfeit specimens, and four of the RR40 specimens. He identified an extremely significant, previously unrecognized attribute shared by the two groups. All of the 1770 counterfeits were die cut in such a way that the bottom of the "0" in the date is too close to the edge of the die; the result is that regardless of how large the flan, or off center the strike, the bottom of the "0" is partially missing. Similarly, all five of the RR40 overstrikes have the bottom portion of the "8" in its date cut very close to the edge of the die.

Therefore we offer the following observations and conclusions between the two groups of coins:

- \* Both groups of coins are clearly not cast or struck from false dies. In the case of the 1770 halfpence, several of the specimens have cracked planchets incurred during the striking process. In the case of the RR40's, each specimen is of a different weight and is struck over a different host counterfeit copper (each of which is clear). In the case of the 13.5 gram specimen, the George III contemporaneous counterfeit host coin is at least 3 grams heavier than any genuine Regal halfpenny produced at the Tower Mint in England.

- \* Both groups of coins were exposed to the same environment and elements, for the same period of time. That is, all specimens evidence the same amount of wear (they are XF in grade), are the same color, and exhibit the same patches of rust and porosity; this would also strongly imply that the quality of copper was the same in each specimen, again pointing to a common source of manufacture.

- \* Both groups of coins were obtained from a single source, an English scholar of unquestionable integrity.

- \* The lettering on the 1770 counterfeits is significantly smaller than generally found on contemporaneous counterfeits, an attribute shared by the coppers produced by Machin Mills.

- \* All 14 of the 1770 counterfeits exhibit a large dimple on the cheek of the obverse bust, as well as a smaller dimple on the King's chin.

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- * Both groups of coins were made by the same manufacturer at approximately the same time.

- * Both groups of coins may be contemporaneous counterfeits.

- * Both groups of coins were made in America during the 1780's.

- * Both groups of coins were made in England during the 1790's.

- * Both groups of coins may be products of the Machin Mills mint.

THE FORGOTTEN COINS
OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES

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A MODERN SURVEY OF  
EARLY ENGLISH AND IRISH COUNTERFEIT COPPERS  
CIRCULATING IN THE AMERICAS

Including a report on the recent  
site inspection of the Machin Mills mint,  
and a study of the Buste Enfantin  
coinage of Louis XV circulating in  
Colonial America

BY  
WILLIAM T. ANTON, JR.  
AND  
BRUCE P. KESSE

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**The Patterson Sale**  
San Diego, California

May 6-7, 1988



## Excessively Rare 1788 Vermont, RR-40



1028

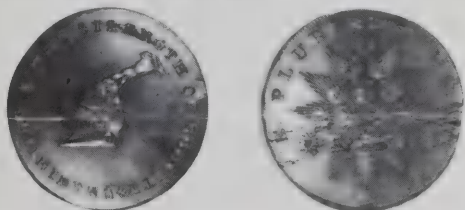
**1788 Vermont, RR-40!** An extremely rare coin—this specimen is one of only two known and the only specimen available on the open market. The discovery coin was found by Ron Guth in the process of attributing the Colonial coinage at the Smithsonian Institution. The second specimen was discovered within the last six months in a mixed lot of counterfeit halfpence which came from England. This is a very important coin for the Vermont specialists, relating the issues of Machin's Mill with the coins from the popular Vermont and Connecticut series to which this coin belongs.

This Vermont piece is a Machin's Mill product and shows the same George III obverse as No. 13 on the Vlack plate and is muled with the Bressett-L reverse from the Vermont series. The obverse is

die linked with two Connecticut reverses, Miller G.2 of 1787 and D of 1788. The reverse is die linked with two Vermont obverses, Ryder 19 and 20 (also called Bressett 10 and 13).

The coin has some of the detail of Fine-12 but was crudely manufactured as is typical of Machin's Mill products. The coin was struck over another crudely made issue and shows some underlying flan irregularity and light porosity. It is possible that this coin is really double struck but the undertype, which is visible on the obverse to the right and on the reverse periphery at 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock, is difficult to pin down. The surfaces are otherwise clean and even, showing a mixture of light and dark brown color. The coin weighs 108.64 grains. (See color photo.)

- 1029 **(1792) Kentucky token.** Plain edge. A smooth, glossy-surfaced, light brown **AU-50** with traces of mint red in some of the letters. Quite pleasing and attractive. Weight 143.41 grains. From Leo Young, 1962.



- 1030 **(1792) Kentucky token.** Lettered edge with PAYABLE IN LANCASTER, etc. Lovely **AU-55** with beautiful light tan and brown surfaces. Held down somewhat by traces of flan roughness at EN of STRENGTH on obverse and prominent streaks of same on reverse. Nicely struck with otherwise smooth surfaces. Weight 141.51 grains.

- 1031 **1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee cent.** Solid **VG-8** with smooth, brown surfaces and nice detail. Small edge bruise on obverse at 8 o'clock. Late state of reverse die with break from rear of ship to edge past right side of L of TALBOT. Weight 160.18 grains.



- 1032 **1796 Castorland medals.** Lot of three medals the first being an early die state of the 19th-century restrike in copper with a reeded edge and thin planchet. It is a superb, reddish-brown **PF-65** with overtones of purple color. Weight 147.8 grains. The other two are matte-surfaced Paris restrikes with plain edge in yellow bronze and silver. (3 pieces)
- 1033 **1783 Georgius Triumpho token.** **VG-8** but with large hits evident on either side near centers. Nice light brown color with good detail. Struck on a somewhat brassy looking planchet with the typical reverse die break extending upward from center of reverse. Weight 116.90 grains.
- 1034 **1783 Washington restrike.** Draped bust, Vlack-Fuld 4-B with engrailed edge. **PF-55** with nice smooth surfaces and attractive two-toned brown color.
- 1035 **1783 Washington Military Bust.** Vlack-Fuld 5-D, with the double punched I in INDEPENDENCE. Glossy, medium brown toning. **VF-30** with a few light, old surface marks consistent with the grade and nice overall eye appeal. Nicely struck. Weight 114.5 grains.



# EARLY ENGLISH COUNTERFEIT HALFPENCE STRUCK IN AMERICA

PLATE I



1



47A



2



71A



71B



71C



4



75A



3



5



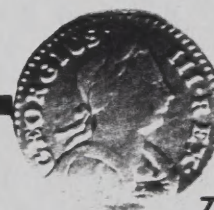
72A



6



74A



7



72B



76A



8



76B



9



87NY



10



77A



11



78A

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# EARLY ENGLISH COUNTERFEIT HALFPENCE STRUCK IN AMERICA

PLATE I



1



47A



2



71A



71B



71C



4



75A



3



5



72A



6



74A



7



72B



76A



8



76B



9



87NY



10



77A



11



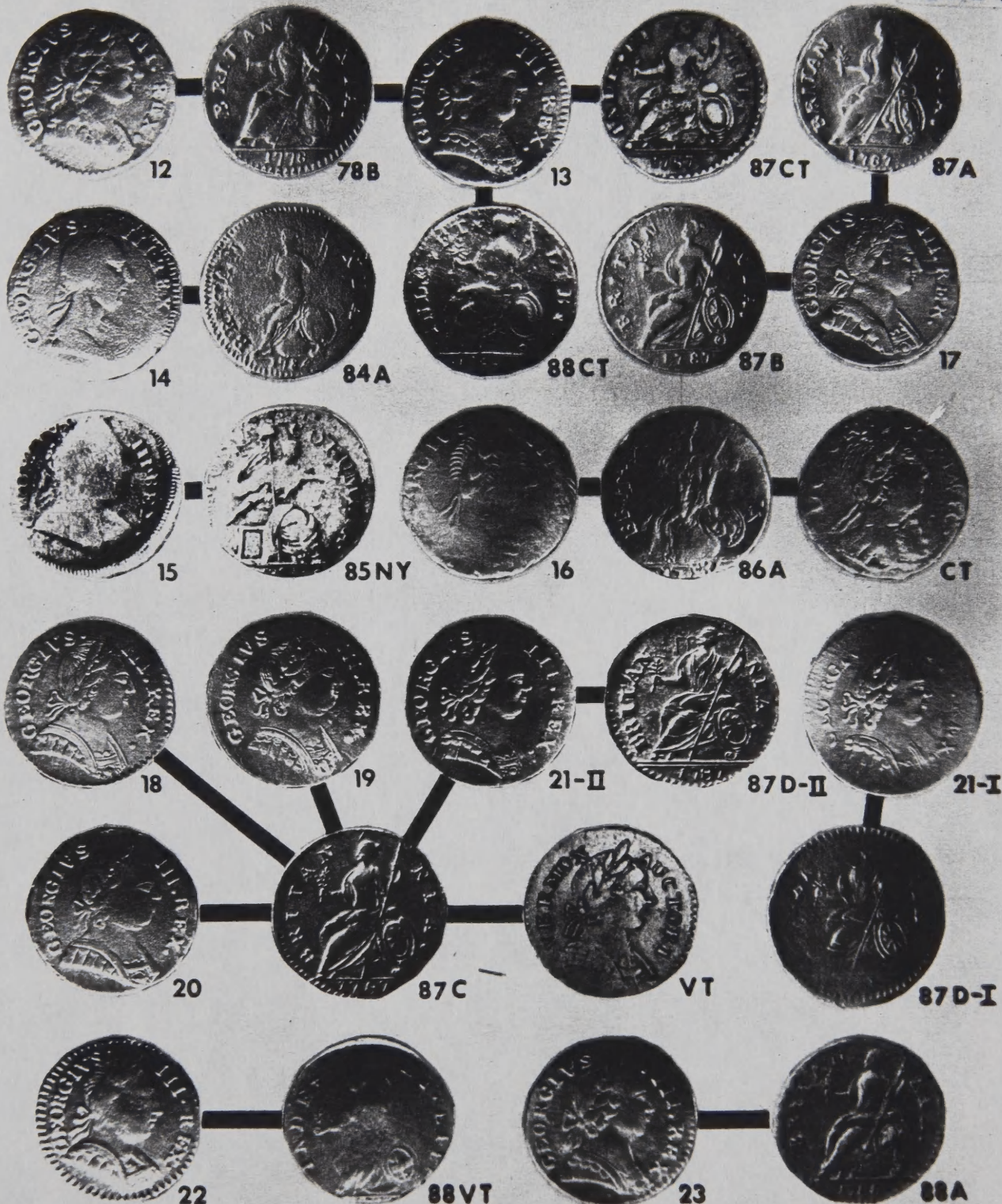
78A

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# EARLY ENGLISH COUNTERFEIT HALFPENCE STRUCK IN AMERICA

PLATE 2



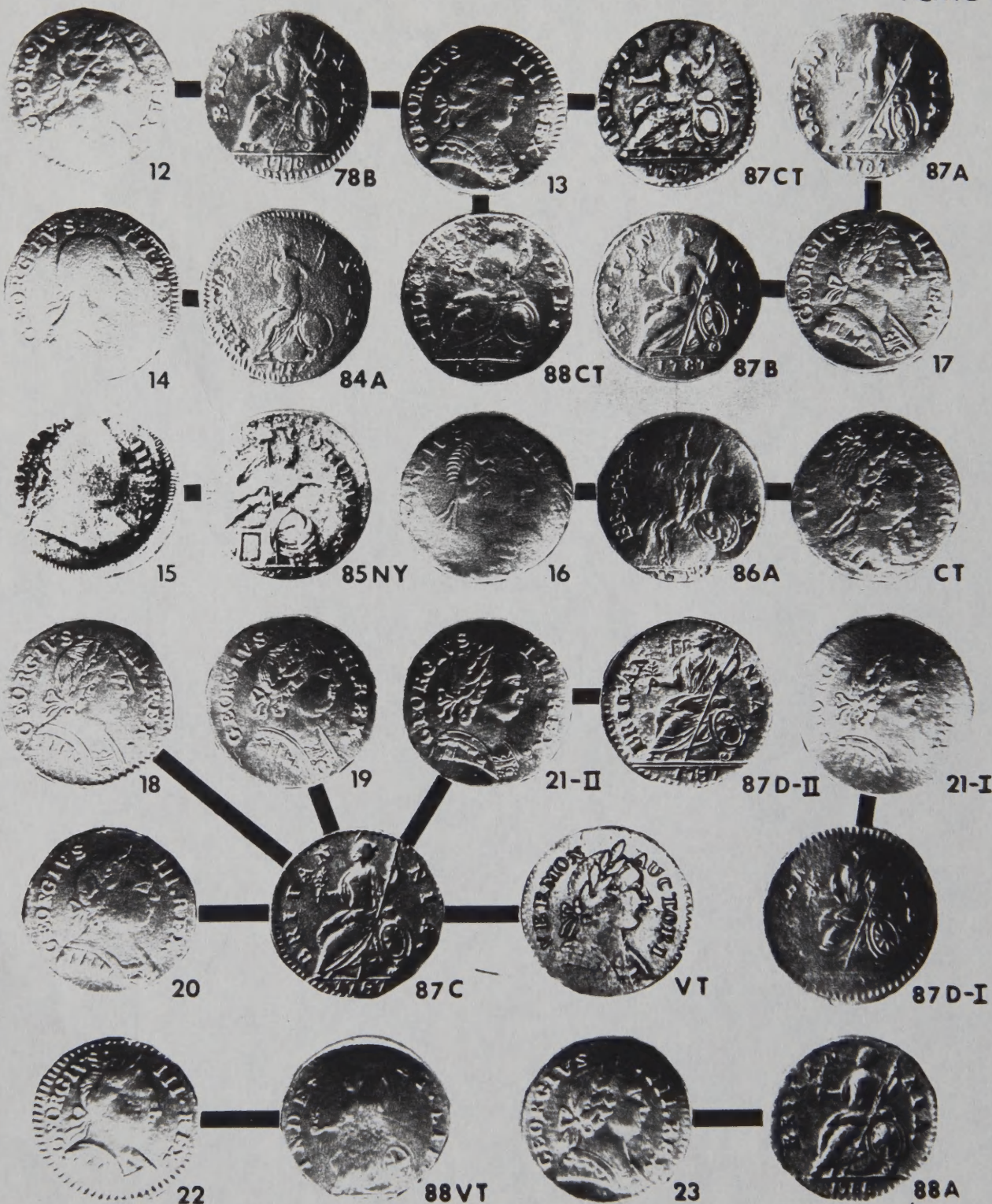
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PLATE 2



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